

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 SR-02

ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 /097 W

----- 095580

R 281159Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1038

INFO AMEMBASSY ANTIAGO

USUN NEW YORK 1386

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECOSOC, SHUM CI

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION-HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE

REF: A) GENEVA 1353 B) GENEVA 1325

1. FIFTEEN COUNTRIES (INCLUDING OBSERVERS FROM CUBA, GDR, AND CHILE) AND NINE NGOS PARTICIPATED IN THE GENERAL DEBATE THIS ITEM. LINES CLEARLY DRAWN BETWEEN WEOS WHO WANTED OBJECTIVE STUDY AND SOVIET BLOC WHO WANTED IMMEDIATE CONDEMNATION. OF LAS, ONLY ECUDOR (BENITES) MADE FORMAL STATEMENT IN WHICH HE NOTED THAT CHILE NOT UNIQUE IN VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT MATTER CURRENTLY PENDING BEFORE IA-CHR. SIGNIFICANTLY, AFRO-ASIAN BLOC DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE DEBATE. STATEMENT BY CUBAN OBSERVER FOCUSED EXCLUSIVELY ON CHILE WITH NO REFERENCE DIRECT OR INDIRECT TO US. NGO PRESENTATIONS INCLUDED HIGHLY EMOTIONAL DIATRIBE AGAINST CHILE BY EX-ALLENDE MINISTER TAPIA, REPRESENTING THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. THE USSR LINE WAS PARROTED BY A MR KUDRIAVTSEV REPRESENTING THE

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WORLD PEACE COUNCIL.

2. CHILEAN REP (DIEZ) TOOK FLOOR ON AFTERNOON OF FEB 27 FOR A LONG BUT FORCEFUL PRESENTATION. MAJOR THEME WAS THAT WHILE NOT ENTIRELY INNOCENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, GOC'S RECORD WAS NOT AS BAD AS THE WORLD THOUGHT AND, IN FACT, BETTER THAN THAT OF SOME PRESENT IN THE ROOM. HE EMPHASIZED NEED TO UNDERSTAND BACKGROUND OF ALLENDE OVERTHROW (MINORITY GOVT SEEKING TO SECURE TOTALITARIAN POWER), NOTED ROLE OF PRESS IN EXAGGERATING AND MI-REPORTING EVENTS, AND QUESTIONED CREDIBILITY OF MUCH OF DOCUMENTATION BEFORE HRC ON BASIS OF EITHER KNOWN FACT OR PREJUDICE OF SOURCE. HE POINTED OUT THAT ATTEMPTS TO OVERTHROW PRESENT GOVT BY FORCE CONTINUING AND UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES GOC UNABLE TO LIFT STATE OF SIEGE. HE CONCLUDED BY INDICATING GOC WOULD WELCOME HRC WORKING GROUP WHICH WOULD FOCUS ON GETTING THE REAL FACTS. (COMMENT: COMPARED TO HIS EARLIER APPEARANCE AT UNGA, DIEZ' PRESENTATION WAS BASICALLY UNEMOTIONAL, AVOIDED ATTACKS ON SOVIETS AS INSPIRATION BEHIND ALLENDE AND PRESENT CAMPAIGN TO DEFILE CHILE, AND DEALT WITH CHARGES IN A VERY REASONED WAY. HE CONVEYED IMPRESSION OF SERIOUS DESIRE OF GOC TO WORK TO IMPROVE SITUATION IN CHILE. IT WAS AN IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE WHICH SUPPORTED EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH SITUATION IN NON-POLITICAL OBJECTIVES TERMS.)

3. USSR (ZORIN) WAS LAST SPEAKER IN THE GENERAL DEBATE. IT WAS A HEAVY-HANDED RECITAL OF BY NOW TRADITIONAL SOVIET RECITAL OF VIOLATIONS AND ATROCITIES COMPLETE WITH CHARGES THAT ALLENDE OVERTHROW ENGINEERED BY AND PRESENT GOVT EXCLUSIVELY SERVING INTEREST OF "INTERNATIONAL MONOPOLIES AND WELL KNOWN IMPERIALIST POWERS". (DIEZ HIMSELF WAS DESCRIBED AS LAWYER FOR ITT).

4. AS REPORTED EARLIER, SENEGAL (DIEYE) INTRODUCED DRAFT RES LAUDING EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD WORKED TO ACHIEVE THE COMPROMISE AND CRITICIZING THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO POLITICIZE EFFORTS OF HRC. HE EMPHASIZED THAT RES DID NOT PREJUDGE SITUATION AND WORKING GROUP'S MANDATE WAS SIMPLY TO OBTAIN FACTS. HE STRESSED THAT MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUP MUST BE PERSONS OF UNQUESTIONED AUTHORITY AND HIGH QUALIFICATIONS. THEY WOULD BE SELECTED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ON THE BASIS OF THEIR COMPETENCE.

5. SCHREIBER (SECRETARIAT) DESCRIBED FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION AND NOTED THAT ACCORDING TO ECOSOC RULES WORKING GROUP WOULD HAVE TO BE CONFIRMED BY ECOSOC. HE OUTLINED PROBABLY WORKING SCHEDULE FOR WORKING GROUP WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THREE WEEK VISIT TO CHILE SOMETIME IN EARLY SUMMER 1975.

6. THE CHAIRMAN THREEUPON PROPOSED THAT THE RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS AND WITHOUT OBJECTION IT WAS SO DECIDED. CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED THAT EITHER TWO RESOLUTIONS ON TABLE (USSR AND UK-NETHERLANDS-NICARAGUA DRAFTS) WOULD NOT BE VOTED ON. HE THEN DELIVERED BRIEF STATEMENT EXPRESSING HIS THOUGHTS ABOUT THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH HAD BEEN PLACED ON HIM THROUGH HIS DESIGNATION AS CHAIRMAN OF WORKING GROUP. HE SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE GROUP WAS TO SECURE AN OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT "WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR" OF THE SITUATION IN CHILE. THE GROUP'S PURPOSE WOULD BE TO GET THE TRUTH. HE ASKED FOR THE SUPPORT AND PRAYERS OF THE COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP AND CLOSED WITH AN APPEAL FOR GOD'S GUIDANCE.

7. DIEZ (CHILE) MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE OF HIS DELEGATION FOR THE EFFORTS LED BY SENEGAL AND GHANA TO FIND THE CONSENSUS SOLUTION. HE SAID THAT THE COMMISSION'S DECISION TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP REPRESENTED A QUEST FOR THE TRUTH WITHOUT PREJUDGMENT AND HE ASSURED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD OFFER THE WORKING GROUP ITS FULLEST COOPERATION.

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8. BENITES (ECUADOR), SPEAKING ON PBEHALF OF THE LATIN AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE HRC, EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE EFFORTS LED BY THE AFRO-ASIAN GROUP WHICH HAD RESULTED IN THE CONSENSUS DECISION TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION. AFTER FURTHER EXCHANGES OF GRATITUDE BETWEEN OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS, IN WHICH REP. OF NICARAGUA (SANSON ROMAN) WAS SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL PRAISE FOR HIS ROLE IN THE PRIVATE NEGOTIATIONS, THE DISCUSSION WAS CLOSED BY ZORIN (USSR). IN REMARKS FLAVORED BY SOUR GRAPES ZORIN NOTED THAT THE PREFERRED SOVIET POSITION HAD BEEN REFLECTED IN THE DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH HIS DELEGATION HAD TABLED. THE CONSENSUS RESOLUTION, ALTHOUGH IT HAD SHORTCOMINGS, OFFERED IN HIS VIEW A MEANS FOR FURTHERING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF

PREVIOUS UN RESOLUTIONS. HIS DELEGATION HAD JOINED IN THE CONSENSUS BECAUSE OF ITS RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR THE HRC TO ACT UNANIMOUSLY ON THIS IMPORTANT QUESTION.

9. COMMENT AS NOTED IN REF B, THE PRESSURES FOR A CONSENSUS SOLUTION GATHERED INCREASING FORCE AFTER THE FIRST DAY'S DISCUSSION OF THE ITEM. WHILE THE DRAFT RESOLUTION CO-SPONSORED BY THE UK, NETHERLANDS AND NICARAGUA WAS CONSIDERED TO HAVE HAD A CHANCE OF PASSAGE BY A SLIM MAJORITY, THE CO-SPONSORS HAD TO CALCULATE THE ROLE OF THE AFRO-ASIAN VOTING BLOC IN DETERMINING THEIR TACTICAL MOVES. IT WAS CLEAR THAT IF AFRO-ASIAN SUPPORT FOR OR AN ABSTENTION, THE UK-NETHERLANDS-NICARAGUA DRAFT WERE NOT MAINTAINED AND A COMPETING AFRO-ASIAN RES WERE PUT FORWARD, CHANCES FOR ADOPTION OF THE UK-NETHERLANDS-NICARAGUA DRAFT WOULD DISAPPEAR. A NOTABLE FEATURE OF THIS SESSION OF THE HRC HAS BEEN THE DETERMINATION OF THE AFRO-ASIANS TO OPERATE AS A GROUP AND TO ASSUME A ROLE OF LEADERSHIP. USDEL HEARD NUMEROUS COMMENTS FROM AFRICAN MEMBERS TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY WERE UNCOMFORTABLE IN VOTING FOR A RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY THE UK, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT WAS OPPOSED BY ANOTHER OF THE BIG POWERS, A SITUATION WHICH WOULD PLACE THOSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VOTING FOR THE UK RESOLUTION IN THE POSITION OF TAKING SIDES IN A BIG POWER STRUGGLE. THE PRINCIPAL MOVER OF THE UK-NETHERLANDS-NICARAGUA DRAFT WAS THE UK REP., SIR KEITH UNWIN. HE WAS NOT WILLING TO RESIST THE AFRO-ASIAN SEARCH FOR A COMPROMISE AND, IN FACT, WAS ANXIOUS TO FIND A FORMULATION WHICH WOULD RECEIVE THE WIDEST AFRO-ASIAN SUPPORT. UNDERLYING THE UK POSITION WAS THEIR DESIRE TO AVOID A SITUATION IN WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE TO VOTE ON A SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTION OTHER THAN THEIR OWN. IN FACT, UP UNTIL THE LAST FEW HOURS ON FEB 26, THE UK DELEGATION WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSTAIN ON THE USSR DRAFT RESOLUTION IN THE EVENT IT WERE PUT TO THE VOTE,

AND EVEN IN THE EVENT THAT THE UK SPONSORED RESOLUTION HAD BEEN ADOPTED. STRONG APPEALS BY THE UK DELEGATION IN GENEVA LED TO A MODIFICATION OF THIS INSTRUCTION TO AN ABSTENTION. IT WAS CLEAR THROUGHOUT THE CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS THAT THE UK GOVT WAS UNWILLING TO TAKE A PUBLIC POSITION WHICH WOULD APPEAR IN ANY WAY TO CONSTITUTE AN

ENDORSEMENT OF THE PRESENT GOC'S HUMAN RIGHTS
POLICIES. THE TENDENCIES TO FIND A CONSENSUS WERE
ALSO STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION
WHO IN THE END FELT THEY HAD DONE ENOUGH TO
ACCOMMODATE THE CHILEAN POINT OF VIEW AND WERE
ACTIVELY PROMOTING THE CONSENSUS RESOLUTION WHICH
WAS TABLED BY SENEGAL.

AFTER THE PM MEETING FEB 27 AMBASSADOR
DIEZ OF CHILE SOUGHT OUT USREP HOFFMAN TO EXPRESS
TO HIM HIS DEEP GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION FOR THE
HELPFUL ROLE THE US DELEGATION HAD PLAYED
THROUGHOUT THIS SESSION. HE EXPRESSED COMPLETE
SATISFACTION WITH THE CONSENSUS DECISION AND RELIEF
THAT A HARSH RESOLUTION CONDEMNATORY OF CHILE AND
BEEN AVOIDED. IN FACT, IT IS THE WIDELY EXPRESSED
OPINION OF MOST HRC MEMBERS THAT THE OUTCOME
ACHIEVED REPRESENTED A SHARP DEFEAT FOR THE USSR
POSITION. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, MEETING OBSERVERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA01368
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750071-0580
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975024/aaaaacul.tel
Line Count: 240
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 GENEVA 1353, 75 GENEVA 1325
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION-HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE
TAGS: SHUM, CI, CU, GC, ECOSOC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006